

Listing of Claims:

1-17 (canceled)

18. (original) A method for restricting completion of a telephone call to permit said telephone call to be completed only when a required person is present, comprising the steps of

- periodically transmitting a unique signal;
- receiving said signal in a base station;
- processing said unique signal within the base station;
- correlating said unique signal to a record in a base station database;
- further correlating said record to a person;
- recording a receipt of said signal in said record;
- recording a failure to receive said signal in said record;
- initiating a wire line telephone call to a local telephone network controller;
- uploading said base station database into a network database;
- disconnecting said telephone call to the local telephone network controller;
- maintaining a database of at least one subscriber telephone numbers that have restrictions on outbound telephone calls;
- maintaining, for each of said subscriber telephone numbers that have restrictions on outbound telephone calls, a list of at least one restricted outbound telephone numbers;
- receiving an outbound telephone call;
- checking the network database to determine whether said outbound telephone call is from one of said subscriber telephone numbers that has restrictions on outbound telephone calls;
- checking the list of restricted outbound telephone numbers to determine whether a number being called may be completed only if at least one required person is present;
- checking a network database to determine whether said at least one required person is present; and
- permitting said outbound telephone call to be completed only if said at least one required person is present.

19. (original) The method according to claim 18, wherein the list of restricted outbound telephone numbers is maintained within the base station.

20. (original) The method according to claim 19, further comprising the step of uploading said list of restricted outbound telephone number to the local telephone network controller whenever there is a change to said list of restricted outbound telephone numbers.

21. (original) The method according to claim 18, wherein the list of restricted outbound telephone numbers is maintained within the local telephone network controller.

22. (original) The method according to claim 21, further comprising the step of updating the list of restricted outbound telephone numbers by telephoning a customer service department within a local telephone network provider.

23. (original) The method according to claim 21, further comprising the step of updating the list of restricted outbound telephone numbers by electronic mail to a customer service department within a local telephone network provider.

24. (original) The method according to claim 21, further comprising the step of updating the list of restricted outbound telephone numbers by mail to a customer service department within a local telephone network provider.

25. (currently amended) A method for restricting completion of a telephone call to permit said telephone call to be completed only when a required person is ~~at a~~ present, comprising the steps of :

- periodically transmitting a unique signal;
- receiving said signal in a base station;
- processing said unique signal within the base station;
- correlating said unique signal to a record in a base station database;
- further correlating said record to said household member;
- recording a receipt of said signal in said record;
- initiating a wire line telephone call to a local telephone network controller;
- uploading said base station database into a network database;
- disconnecting said telephone call to the local telephone network controller;
- maintaining a database of at least one subscriber telephone numbers that have restrictions on inbound telephone calls;

maintaining, for each of said subscriber telephone numbers that have restrictions on inbound telephone calls, a list of at least one restricted inbound telephone numbers;
receiving an inbound telephone call;
checking the network database to determine whether said inbound telephone call is to a subscriber telephone number that has restrictions on inbound telephone calls;
checking the list of restricted inbound telephone numbers to determine whether said inbound telephone call to said subscriber telephone number being called may be completed only if at least one required person is present;
checking a network database to determine whether said at least one required person is present; and
permitting said inbound telephone call to be completed only if said at least one required person is present.

26. (original) The method according to claim 25, wherein the list of restricted inbound telephone numbers is maintained within the base station.

27. (original) The method according to claim 26, further comprising the step of uploading said list of restricted inbound telephone numbers to the local telephone network controller whenever there is a change to said list of restricted inbound telephone numbers.

28. (original) The method according to claim 25, wherein the list of restricted inbound telephone numbers is maintained within the local telephone network controller.

29. (original) The method according to claim 28, further comprising the step of updating the list of restricted outbound telephone numbers by telephoning a customer service department within a local telephone network provider.

30. (original) The method according to claim 28, further comprising the step of updating the list of restricted outbound telephone numbers by electronic mail to a customer service department within a local telephone network provider.

31. (original) The method according to claim 28, further comprising the step of updating the list of restricted outbound telephone numbers by mail to a customer service department within a local telephone network provider.

32. (original) The method according to claim 25, further comprising the step of playing an announcement to a caller explaining that said inbound telephone call cannot be completed if said at least one required person is not present.

33. (original) The method according to claim 25, further comprising the step of returning to the caller a signal indicating that a telephone is ringing without being answered if said at least one required person is not present.

34. (original) The method according to claim 25, further comprising the steps of automatically transferring a caller to a voice mailbox if said at least one required person is not present.

35. (original) The method according to claim 25, further comprising the step of transferring a caller to a predetermined alternative telephone number if said at least one required person is not present.

36-43. (cancelled)

44. (withdrawn) A method for indicating when a battery on a transmitter is low, comprising the steps of:

- periodically transmitting a unique signal;
- receiving said unique signal within the base station;
- processing said unique signal within the base station; and
- activating a light on said base station.

45. (withdrawn) A method for indicating when a battery on a transmitter is low, comprising the steps of:

- periodically transmitting a unique signal;
- receiving said signal in a base station;

processing said unique signal within the base station;
initiating a telephone call to a local telephone network controller;
uploading information regarding a low battery strength to said local telephone network controller; and
initiating a telephone call to a person associated with said transmitter to advise said person of the low battery strength of said transmitter.